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From The Rectory

What will you be up to on the 14th February this year? Will you be out on a date with a boyfriend, girlfriend or spouse? Or will you be joining us for our Ash Wednesday service? Two very different events have fallen on the same day this year. One a celebration of love and romance – the other a sombre lament for the wrong we have done. Just don't get them mixed up – I am not sure your beloved would thank you taking them on a date to an Ash Wednesday service!

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the time of Lent, leading up to the central festivals of the Christian year – Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The traditional Lent fast emphasised giving up rich and fancy foods.

Exactly what constitutes a “luxurious” food is now somewhat different; few of us think of eggs, milk, and sugar as luxuries today. In the past these were the kinds of foods given up in Lent. That's where Pancake Day comes from: the pancakes were a way of finishing up the eggs, milk and sugar, before the Lent fast started on Ash Wednesday. But I guess people of the past would recognise the principle of us giving up chocolate, alcohol or coffee for Lent.

Giving up food for Lent is only part of the full picture. The practice of Lent also includes prayer and penance – a sober reflection on our lives, how we have acted and spoken; and seeking God for forgiveness and help for the future. So, on Ash Wednesday there is the tradition of receiving an ‘imposition of ash’ on the forehead to mark our attitude of repentance and sorrow.

As I reflected on this clash of ‘festivals’, I began to

realise that there is a link as well. One of the pictures God uses of the relationship between himself and the church is that of the intimacy of marriage, for example Paul writes this:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church...

But then he goes on to link this to Jesus Christ's death on Good Friday:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

The Lent fast and Ash Wednesday service are designed to help us to reflect on our moral stains and unholiness and prepares us for the gift of God's forgiveness which comes through Jesus' “giving himself up” to death that first Good Friday. The ultimate act of love and sacrifice, and the model for our love. A cleansing to make us holy so we can know loving intimacy with a Holy God. Why not discover more about Jesus and the loving intimacy he offers with God this Lent through joining us for our Alpha course – details are below.

David Spence

Find out more about Jesus on Alpha



This Lent we are inviting people to join us for “Alpha”, a course that creates a space where people can join together to have a conversation about faith, life and God. **There will be six sessions on Tuesday evenings (20th Feb-26th Mar) plus a day away.** We will share a meal, watch a video, and have times for discussion. There is no cost.

For more information or to register contact David on 01837 89243 or revdspence@gmail.com

LITTLE FISHES

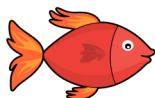
Toddler Group

Every Thursday (inc. school holidays)

9am-11am @ St Peter's Church

Little Fishes is our weekly toddler group for parents and children aged 0-4 and is held in St Peter's Church, North Tawton.

We are a growing group from in and around the town and aim to provide a FREE space which is fun and safe for children and supportive for parents.



For more info, please contact Wez Cutler on: 07540127827 or wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk



**Drop in anytime between 10.30 a.m. –12 noon
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Feb 13th and Feb 27th

**For more information contact
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13.30 - 13.50

THURSDAY *monthly*

SPREYTON Village Shop
Feb 1st / 29th 2024 14:00 to 14:30

FRIDAY *monthly*

NORTH TAWTON The Square
February 16th 2024 09:45 to 10.45

BONDLEIGH Old School
February 16th 2024 13:30 to 14:15

SATURDAY *monthly*

NORTH TAWTON The Square
February 3rd 2024 10:00 to 12:00

Please check on info@librariesunlimited.org.uk

It is with great regret that the Mobile Library Service will cease to operate from the end of February. We would like to thank Julie and others who have provided this valuable service to our communities.

Bow & District Historical Society

26th February
History of Bow
by Nigel Browne
(postponed from September 2023)
7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

BDHS Annual Membership £15
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Visitors welcome entry £4,
tea/coffee biscuits included.

Bow Village Hall EX17 6HU.
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Roundabout

is published for the community on behalf of the four parish churches of North Tawton, Sampford Courtenay, Bondleigh and Honeychurch.

Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by the Church, by the PCC, by members of the four churches, or by the Editors.

Contributions should be sent to
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North Tawton,
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NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Melanie Bickell

14A The Square
North Tawton
EX20 2EP

Tel: 01837 880121

e-mail: townclerk@northtawtontowncouncil.gov.uk

By- Election

Following the resignation of Cllr. Bath, sufficient requests have been received by WDBC requesting a by-election. Poll date 8th February 2024. Nominations to WDBC closed on 12th January 2024. For further information please contact WDBC Elections office or Town Clerk.

Town Crier

The Town Council will be holding a competition to select a new town crier. Further details to follow.

Clock Tower

Work is underway in the contractor's workshop to slice and repair the canopy woodwork in accordance with Listed Building Control requirements. Once the weather improves, the work to the masonry will resume prior to the canopy being erected.

Lych Gate

North Tawton Town Council is disappointed that the Lych Gate has been Listed despite the council's objection. The Council resolved on 7th November 2023 "to respond that we do not believe the Lych Gate to be architecturally important, it is in the conservation area therefore the conservation officer would have to be involved in approving works and following our recent experience with the Clock tower, works to listed buildings will inherently be a higher cost to the taxpayers to maintain, therefore the Town Council do not support the listing of the Lych Gate, all in favour" The Church of England website clearly states that grants are not available for Lych Gates in Closed Church yards which are the responsibility of the Local Authority. The current repair to the Lych Gate commenced prior to it becoming Listed and is fully funded by public donation and not by the taxpayers. North Tawton Town Council's experience with the clock tower is that consultation with Listed Building Planning Officers to obtain permissions for works in accordance with instructions from Listed Building Control tend to be refused. The specialist repair instructed by Listed Building Control inevitably incurs a higher charge rate. The Town Council is of the belief that listing of the Lych Gate would result in similar problems and the only result would be delays and increased cost to taxpayers.

Public Meeting – Parking provision around the Town

The Town Council called a public meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday 25th January 2024, 7 pm, to advise and discuss with residents the work undertaken over many years to source the provision of additional public parking around the town, and the reasons why this has not been possible to date. February's "Roundabout" went to press before that meeting so results are not yet available.

2024/25 Budget

The Finance Committee will be presenting their recommended budget to the full Council on 6th February for a final decision. The finance committee met on 22nd January 2024 to finalise their recommendations.

Warm Space and Community Fridge/Larder/Freezer

Thanks to grant funding from WDBC, the Town Council can continue to fund the warm space initiatives and Jens Café and Merry Go Round. The Community fridge has been expanded to include a freezer. Food items donated by residents are now available from the community fridge. This initiative is to help residents who are struggling to keep warm and need a warm space and a cuppa, to get a cheap hot meal, or to help themselves to donated food items.

Council Meeting.

Our next council meetings will be Tuesday 6th February full council, Monday 12th February Transport Committee and Tuesday 20th February Estates Committee. The Council offers an open forum between 7.15 and 7.30, and 8-days' notice is required to the Clerk if you wish to speak to the Council at the open forum. If you wish to make a presentation or raise any issue with the council for a response at the following month's meeting, please contact the Clerk at least 8 days before the meeting.

Public period during the meeting - members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend **in respect of the business on the agenda only**.

Please quote agenda item number where applicable. Time is limited to 2 minutes per person. In accordance with standing order 3(f), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

Melanie Bickell, Town Clerk

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North Tawton Afternoon W.I.

Ramblings of a North Tawton W.I. Member

So that's that then. Christmas has been packed away in the loft. Which reminds me. A friend once said to me (and she is a minimalist when it comes to 'stuff' in her house) – 'you should only ever have two things in your loft. A suitcase and a Christmas tree'. I thought it was normal to have lots of stuff stuffed in your loft. A typical conversation between me and husband will go 'where shall I put this?' (with him/me pointing at object/s to be dealt with) and the answer is always 'stick it in the loft'. Can I go on a course on how to be a minimalist?

Bet you wished you'd had a power harrow for Christmas. I could barely contain my excitement on Christmas Eve hoping that all my dreams would come true – and sure enough, they did. It's a very pretty colour. Green and yellow. Problem is. Don't really know what to do with it. It's too big to go in the loft. As I'm feeling generous, I might let husband play with it.

Want to hear about our recent trips? On one very wet day in December (and there were a lot of very wet days in December) we invaded Clarks Village in Street, Somerset. The rain was relentless. It rained all day. And just when you thought you couldn't get wetter. You did. But nothing comes between a W.I. member and her Christmas shopping list. Not even leaky footwear. One diligent member wrapped her sodden feet in plastic bags inside her leaky footwear. That's true W.I. determination. Her socks could be seen gently steaming on the way home.

The weather could never ruin our trip to the Panto. North Tawton W.I. members and assorted husbands and friends clambered aboard the coach and headed off to the Plymouth Theatre Royal, full of excitement, to see Goldilocks and the Three Bears, starring Brendan Cole (a former Strictly professional dancer) Dame Kelly Holmes (Olympic athlete) and Alexandra Mardell (Coronation Street actress). Fabulous sets, stunning costumes and superb special effects. Best bit for me? Hearing the parties of school kids giggling and laughing at the naughty jokes. Oh – and bags of sweets were dished out on the coach too. I love a Parma Violet.

We can be quite a crafty lot. On the run up to Christmas we exercised our crafting skills several times. We had a go at mosaic work – then we had a go at pottery painting – and then there was willow weaving – all done with some brilliant results. Husband has offered to put on a chain sawing/rotavating/power harrowing workshop if we're interested.

No speaker at our January meeting. So, we invited the pottery painting lady to come back armed with enough blank pottery mugs for us all to paint. And the words 'blank mug' pretty much describes me as I sat looking at it. Waiting for inspiration to guide my paint brush. Whilst all manner of imaginative designs were being created around me – I stared blankly at my blank mug. Reminded me of my secondary school art teacher Miss Tippins. She'd dish out big pieces of white paper and say 'draw/paint anything you want to – use your creativity'. Hence the comment from her on my school report. 'Susan tries hard but lacks imagination'. Bit harsh methinks. Anyway, back to my blank mug – I came up with a feeble idea after what seemed like hours. And then I put another members initials on the bottom. Crafty, eh?

Sue Knott

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North Street Chapel

Coffee and Chat

2nd Wednesday monthly

Next meetings 14th February

10-11.30 a.m.



If you would like to talk to one of the team,
please contact:

North Tawton

Rhona & Ken Bragg 01837 82343
Jackie Tye 01837 880479

Sampford Courtenay/Honeychurch

Rory Robinson 07811 324154
Lynn Robinson 07966477465

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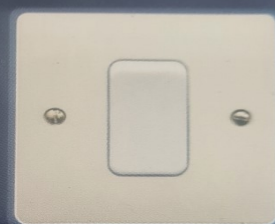
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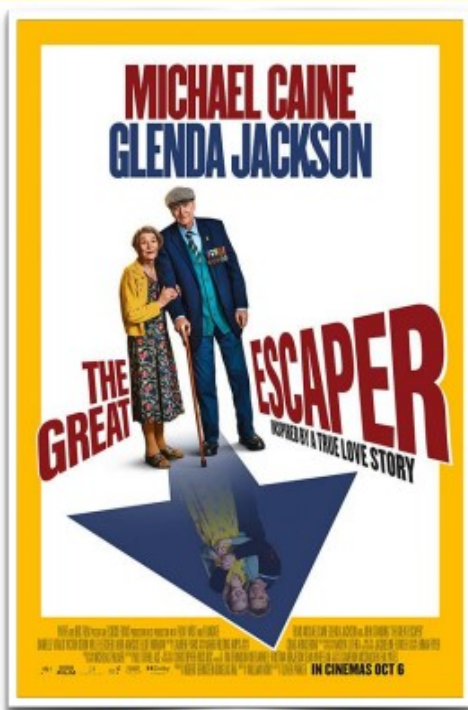
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NORTH TAWTON SCOUTS NEED YOUR HELP - NEW LEADERS REQUIRED

Being the 1st North Tawton Group Scout Leader, I need to put an urgent request out for help to the local community. Since the early 1900's 1st North Tawton Scout Group has been a thriving part of the local community with our smart uniforms and blue/white knickers being proudly worn by our young persons for all to see. During our history there have been some times when scouting in North Tawton stopped due to external issues, during the war and in more recent times due to COVID for example, but also several periods when Scouting stopped locally due to a shortage of adults volunteering to become leaders. Unfortunately we are now approaching the same scenario. We have been very lucky to have had a dedicated and stable leader team for many years, but for personal and work reasons several of the current leaders have reduced their availability to support the group. This means that although we will be issuing a full scout programme for the coming term, including camps for the year, there is a high probability that without new leaders we will need to cancel meetings at short notice or even close the scout section completely later in the term. This is the reality of the situation we are facing; the closure of the Scout section would result in the 24 Scouts we already have being unable to continue their Scouting Journey and will have knock on effects to the Cubs, Beavers and Squirrel Scouts who will be unable to move up through all the sections.

If you think you can help us, know of a family member or friend who would like to become a scout leader, then please talk to us urgently. Being a scout leader is great fun and doesn't need any particular skills to start. If you are interested in helping scouts to have fun and develop their personal and practical skills, then being a leader could be for you and is massively rewarding. The time commitment is not excessive; meetings taking up a couple of hours a week on a Wednesday evening with a small amount of preparation time depending on the activities and your current skill level. Please remember that we are only teaching the scouts the basics of most subjects, so you don't need to be experts in anything and it is easy for you to stay one step ahead of them with a bit of help from ourselves. In addition, in order to ensure we operate safely for both the scouts and yourselves, there is some training you must complete with the scout association. The mandatory training on safety and child protection consists of a few online courses that must be completed over the first few months and will take a few hours in manageable chunks. Further training is available and can be taken at a more leisurely pace as a mix of face to face and online training. Whilst scouting does not insist on having female leaders in the section as we have almost 50% of female scouts, we would very much like to be fully representative in the leader team, so this request is equally applicable to all parents, carers, family members and friends. If you have any questions then please contact the Group Scout Leader Phil Roberts on Philip.roberts@tip-group.com or 07775 801218 or the Scout Leader Martin Gill on gills_finwood@btinternet.com or 01837 880129.



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News from the Moor

Hi everyone

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed the respite after the rain and high winds of December. As we begin a new year, I'd like to take this opportunity to share a highlight from the end of 2023.

On Saturday 25th November we hosted our annual St. Clement's Day event at Finch Foundry. St. Clement's Day sees Blacksmiths from all around the area, and some from further afield, come along to compete, meet and create in the historical environment of Finch Foundry. St. Clement's Day was traditionally a feast day set between Halloween and Christmas. As Clement was the patron saint of metalworkers and blacksmiths, the day was an opportunity for them to enjoy a day of feasting and traditions such as firing of the anvil, dressing up and parading as 'Old Clem' and asking for donations for an evening of celebration.

We start the St. Clement's celebrations with the firing of the anvil and then begin the competitions - two hours of forging to create a saleable item and the snail race where the fastest snail maker wins. At the 2023 celebration, after a day of creative competing, Adam Greenwell was awarded with the fastest snail prize, Greg Clarke's snail was deemed the best looking and Steve Wilson from the Cornish blacksmith collective was awarded with item of the day. We would like to thank Mike Jecks for firing the anvil, Bill Murray for the judging, all the brilliant blacksmiths, volunteers and helpers for making such a great event and all of our wonderful visitors for supporting it once again.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are busy getting ready to re-open various sites ready for the new season. Castle Drogo is opening earlier this year with the visitor centre, garden and castle fully open from Monday 5 February. The Ranger teams across the whole of the Moor are busy doing all of the winter tasks. This includes the management of ash trees which have Ash Dieback. Some of these trees are in very tricky locations, including some by the road to Castle Drogo so thank you to all our neighbours for their support and patience during the road closure so we can undertake this work safely.

Easter is early this year at the end of March so here's hoping for lovely weather for the start of Spring. Best wishes everyone,

Paula
Volunteering & Community Manager, Dartmoor
07826 945107, paula.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

THANK YOU

Just a note in order to express my sincere gratitude to you all, who have sent me flowers and get well messages while I was recovering from an eye operation, which sadly developed complications, I could not have anticipated.

SPECIAL THANKS must go to all the staff, who have covered me during my absence...

Hope to see you all soon, to thank you in person..

June (North Tawton Post Office)

Quiz and Pudding Night

Friday 23rd February 2024 in

Exbourne Village Hall,

7pm for 7.30 start.

Entry £4 per team of up to 4 people.

Selection of puddings at £4 per person.

Space is limited so please contact Sue Rose on 01837 851232 or ser@care4free.net to book a table. Donations of puddings and raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Bring your own drink and glasses.

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Saturday, 9th December, 2023 at 12 noon in Winkleigh Village Hall - **An apology**

The Bondleigh Barn Band regrets its "Christmas Singalong" did not take place as advertised in the previous edition of "Roundabout". Concerns over positive Covid tests led the organisers to decide not to risk inviting an audience to gather indoors just before Christmas.

We are sorry to have made so late a decision not to go ahead, particularly as it was so close to the event that some audience members did not learn of it until arriving at the Hall. We wish to apologise to all those who had intended to attend.

Current advice from health authorities is that anyone with a positive Covid test should keep at home for five days. We hope that members of the Bondleigh Barn Band as well as its potential audience members will heed that advice.

For the future, the Bondleigh Barn Band has resolved to perform whenever it advertises it will do so.



If advice from health authorities is heeded, any risk of infection will be reduced. Potential audience members can make their own choice whether or not to attend, based on their individual circumstances.

Meanwhile, so far as the Bondleigh Barn Band is concerned, the show must go on !!

Richard Edwards

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News From North Tawton Community Primary School



Thank You Friends of North Tawton Primary School

This month I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our parent group 'Friends of North Tawton School.' Schools nationally, and in fact internationally, have parent and carer groups who work in ways to support the schools their children attend. Typically, they will organise a summer fair and run bake sales. Our North Tawton group do this, and a whole lot more!

Friends of North Tawton School (FONTS) have two main aims: to raise funds for the school and to bring the community together. Throughout the year they organise events to do these two things. The funds they raise are used for enriching the curriculum, as you will know from my previous articles, we have less and less government funding for doing this. Hopefully you have seen the local media coverage of the North Tawton Santa Dash. This was the first time and I hope will now become a tradition. This year we had another Christmas first, a wreath making workshop, which was also well attended and enjoyed. In addition to our Christmas Fair and selling children's Christmas cards, FONTS raised over £2000 this Christmas!

Over the past year FONTS have organised a Bring the Fizz for the Quiz, Valentines Disco, Crown around Town and Scarecrow trail and an Easter art competition. They also organised a book fair, school photos and of course the summer fair and bake sales! FONTS have been of great support advertising and supporting school events such as World Book Day, volunteer days and encouraging the local community to collect resources for developing our grounds and welcoming new parents.

So, who are these people? There are four named posts. The people who volunteer to take on these roles fulfil the vital role of organisation and coordinating events, and ensure we fulfil legal duties such as risk assessments and insurances for events and keeping the accounts. They work closely with the school, namely myself and Jo Ware, to agree dates and organise logistics.

Chair - Philippa Crisp

Vice Chair - Vanessa Peri - Khoi

Secretary- Katie Hillier

Treasurer - Wayne Arcscott

They don't do all the work! They enlist support from the wider parent and carer group. All are welcomed to be members of FONTS! We welcome parents and carers to support in any way they can: running stalls, selling raffle tickets and of course, attending events! We also have members who have taken on the organisation of a specific event such as Evie Compton organising the Santa Dash, and Katy Robins organising the printing of Y6 hoodies and the Bag 2 School scheme.

This year FONTS have raised money for to pay for our new and exciting playground markings, staging and microphones to enhance our performances, playtime equipment trolleys, musical instruments and subsidised the costs of class trips.

From all of us at the school, we would like to say a heartfelt Thank You!

To find out more about FONTS and the work they do, follow 'Friends of North Tawton School' on Facebook.

Tara Penny

Principal

North Tawton Repair Café

A space to meet people, have a coffee (or tea!) and get broken things mended

North Tawton Repair Café would like to thank everyone who comes along to our events – it makes us all happy when we can fix something that would otherwise be thrown away. Did you know that you don't have to have anything to fix in order to come along? We will be open on the dates below, and always have hot drinks available, and often soup, so please just pop along for a cuppa and a chat – we love meeting new people!

We are also now able to offer repairs to computers and to bikes. Bikes must be booked in – please drop us a message on facebook, or call Ruth 01837 82207.

10th February 2024 – 10 a.m. to 12.30

9th March 2024 – 10 a.m. to 12.30

At the Community Centre, Barton Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HN.

For more information go to <https://fb.me/NTRRepairCafe>



North Tawton Library of Things

Join for £5 a year and borrow any of the items we have in the library for free. Open 5.30-6.30 every Thursday, in the Chapel of Rest. You can join online or with a paper form (available in the Post Office). Our library includes household tools, gardening equipment, beer and wine glasses, Hoover and carpet cleaners, prams, travel cots, pet carriers, food dehydrator, dehumidifier and craft equipment! Why not pop along and have a look?

<https://northtawtonlibraryofthings.myturn.com/library/>

We also have a mini scrapstore – come and take away some new craft materials and see what you can create! (The scrapstore will also be at the Repair Café for you to have a rummage).

INTERESTING BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN

In Market Street, just opposite Merry go Round, we find the Clink. (The name is still on the door.) This dates back to at least 1777 and maybe even earlier. It is a two-storey building – the Clink, or temporary prison, with two cells on the ground floor. The only means of air and light is provided by a small grill just 18" x 6" on the door leading to the street – this is still in existence. The upstairs room was the Magistrates' or Justices' Court until 1860 when it moved to the Market Hall (now the Town Hall). At about the same time, the "new" Police Station in North Street was built and the prisoners were then held in the new cells there. The Town Council met in the room upstairs. Next to the Clink door, there is another door and it was here that "Neptune" – the old horse-drawn fire engine – was housed.

A little further on, on the right hand side, is the Lych Gate entrance to the Church. Looking through the gate towards the church you will see an avenue of 12 lime trees representing the 12 apostles. There are 6 on either side of the path. The present ones are fairly recent, but there has been an avenue of lime trees here since about 1740. The originals were planted by Whig Clergy to show their sympathy with William of Orange and the Hanoverian succession – the Jacobites planted fir trees. A few yards further on, on the right, is Court Green, which was the ancient Manor House and belonged to the Valletort family. It was built in the 13th or 14th century and was in those days a moated site. Many of the properties in this area bear the letter 'P' on their walls. This means they once belonged to the Portsmouth family, who were Lords of the Manor 1718 – 1904.

(Continued on page 19)



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ANTS proudly presents:
“Kindly Leave the Stage” by John Chapman

North Tawton Town Hall, February 15th to 17th inclusive. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the performance starts at 7:30 p.m..

Tickets are £8.50, no concessions as we would not recommend this production for under 12s. Tickets available from North Tawton Post Office and, online, through www.ticketsource.co.uk.

We hope to have a mix of rows and table seating so that you can bring your own drinks. Beverages and snacks will be available to purchase.

It all starts with that awkward Dinner Party where the couple who are hosting have a massive argument. Will it end in divorce? Will the guest couple come to the rescue? How awkward will it get when parents of the host start arriving? Or.....will it take a very different turn altogether? Come and see it to find out. Director, Nigel Davies says “Kindly Leave the Stage is a farce, but not as you know it! Something a bit different to anything ANTS have done before. We are having a great time in rehearsals, lots of laughter which is always a good sign! It will be a lot of fun to watch the real twist, half way through Act One. We hope to see lots of you there.”

ALSO:

ANTS will be celebrating 40 years of entertaining North Tawton and the surrounding area, in 2025!! We have discovered the original script of Red Riding Hood, which had been carefully kept by our late, and much missed, President Mike Thwaites. Therefore, in Spring 2025 to celebrate our 40 years, we are resurrecting this production. Watch this space for more details.



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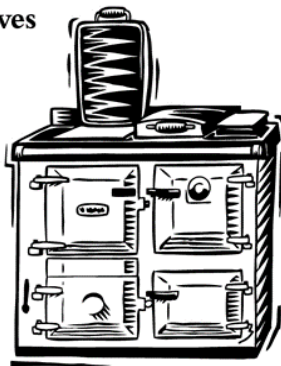
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THE ART BOX – February 2024

In association with Ruth Smith Gallery and Red Mud Arts. If you would like to contribute, please contact Ruth on 07810590954 or at ruth@ruthsmithgallery.co.uk



Gallery Musings – a jaunt to Penzance and Newlyn's *Storm Warning*

This winter I went to an exhibition split between Penzance's The Exchange and Newlyn Art Gallery. It was an exhibition on, of course, climate change... and amongst other things, it got me thinking about the role of art and science. Being an artist and husband being a climate scientist it was quite a good exhibition for us to go round together. It was interesting that husband's favourite piece was a bit debatable on the 'art front', though absolutely not on the 'science front'. It was a well-researched and well-communicated documentary on what coastal communities are doing about the climate crisis where they are. I too thought it was fantastic, and I gave it the most time of all the works in the show (partly due to its long format) but I wasn't really sure what it was doing in a gallery. It was certainly artistic, and in some ways I believe anything is art if someone says it is (that doesn't necessarily mean it's 'good') but this piece was very 'educational'. Is the place of art to educate? I think its job is to 'bring to light', but should art 'tell' or 'make think'?

My favourite piece was much more open to interpretation. An army locker type arrangement with camo-clad mastic-guns stacked like rifles on a stainless-steel rack. In-between them, laid out on a table, was a detailed map of a small section of coast with a clear plan of action. After a bit of reading, it became apparent that the 'guns' were full of sea grass seed in a type of natural cement that people have been using to plant under water in appropriate coastal locations. Husband and I chuckled and said 'sticks most stones' which is in the small print of the miraculous CT1 which you can use underwater.

This new understanding of what it was I was looking at shone a new light onto the camouflage. Suddenly it was not wolf in sheep's clothing, but actually an attempt to blend in and be in harmony with nature. The army-type badge which at first glance appears like crossed guns, suddenly makes sense as two harmless and life-filled seeded-paste mastic-guns with sea grass flowing from the nozzles. In the context of our terrible wars, with people against people, this makes far more sense as a battle to unite us in caring for one another and the planet, bringing life instead of destruction.

Was it educational? It certainly took my thoughts on a journey, but did it excite me more to make my own connections through its strange poetry? Yes it did.

Ruth Smith 2024

Image: embroidered badge, a detail of
Costal Defence – seeds, spores, spats and sausages, 2023
By Something and Son (Andy Merritt and Paul Smyth)



INTERESTING BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN (*continued from Page 16*)

Between Court Green and the Church there was a Green where wrestling took place. The championship hat and ribbons were hung in the Church on the Sunday previous to the matches. The Green also held the Village Pound for stray animals. The owners of the beasts had to pay before they were released to them. The Pound later moved to North Street, but is no longer in existence, there being no real necessity for one in this day and age.

Cross back to the left side of the road and we find Devonshire House – now the Doctors' Surgery and private dwellings. According to the date just below the Bell Tower, it would appear that it was built in 1862, but the first we know of it being in use is that from 1863 to 1895, it was known as "The Middle Class School" for boys, one of whom was the first Viscount Lambert. From 1895 until the 1930s it was the Devon Serge Warehouse and was owned by the Phillips family. They purchased the serge from the North Tawton Woollen Mill and made high-class clothing and clerical suits, which were sent to many parts of the world.

During World War II, the house was taken over by a stockbroking firm evacuated from London. Many locals remembered these evacuees with great affection as they entered into the activities of the town with great enthusiasm and were very helpful. Many friendships were made which continued for many years. In 1949 the house became the home of The North Devon Water Board and remained so until Dr. Warre made it the local surgery and clinic.

(this article is reprinted from an edition of "Roundabout" published over 25 years ago)

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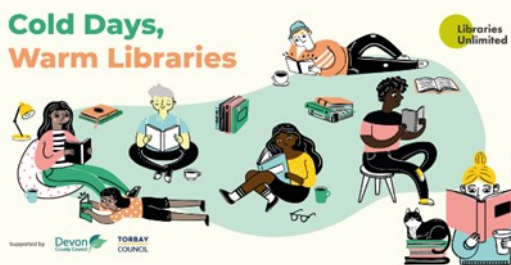
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Keep an eye out for more events and activities at Okehampton Library.

Visit our Website: www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/okehamptonlibrary

Follow us on Facebook.

EVENTS

National Storytelling Week 27th January – 4th February

Join us in the library for some fantastic stories this week and choose some books to read at home. If you are not already a member it is free to join and borrow books.

Stay & Play – Monday 29th January, 10:00-11:00

Bounce & Rhyme – Tuesday 30th January session at 10:00 and 11:00

Bedtime Stories – Tuesday 30th January, 17:00-17:45

Duplo & Storytime – Wednesday 31st January 09:30-10:15

Free events - No booking necessary

Under the Sea – 12th February – 17th February during library opening hours

Come and help us create a magical underwater world display by designing, creating and naming your own fish. Inspired by the Underwater Zone from The Secret Book Quest, explore the amazing world of under the sea.

Fishy Trail – 12th February – 17th February during library opening hours

Search for the unusual fish hiding in the library, receive a sticker if you find them all.

Farewell Jamaica – Thursday 14th March 19:15-20:15



'Farewell Jamaica' is a captivating and heartwarming play based on Neville's Windrush journey, as he leaves Jamaica in search of a brighter future to help rebuild England after WW2.

This interactive tale is filled with joy, emotion and laughter, promising and unforgettable theatrical experience. Highlighting the history, and challenges encountered by other migrants either living or travelling to Britain providing an engaging, thought provoking and multi-sensory interactive performance.

Tickets only £3 through Okehampton Library or Eventbrite

REGULAR EVENTS

ADULTS:

Cuppa & A Chat - Tuesdays 13:30-15:30

Enjoy a natter with other customers. Refreshments will be available. Just drop in.

Read Easy – First Tuesday of every month 10:00-12:00

Come and chat with Richard from Read Easy, the charity that helps adults learn to read. Richard would love to talk to you, particularly if you are interested to know more about what Read Easy do and/or if you would like to introduce someone to their free 1:1 and confidential service.

(See page 30 for Regular children's events)

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SEPTEMBER

2ND WITHYCOMBE (H)
9TH DEVONPORT SERVICES (A)
16TH EXMOUTH II (H)
23RD TORQUAY ATHLETIC (A)
30TH EXETER SARACENS (H)

OCTOBER

14TH HONITON (A)
21ST IVYBRIDGE II (H)

NOVEMBER

4TH OLD PLYMOUTHIAN +
MANNAMEDIAN (H)
11TH PLYMOUTH ARGAUM (A)
18TH BARNSTAPLE II (H)

DECEMBER

2ND SOUTH MOLTON (A)
9TH DEVONPORT SERVICES (H)
16TH EXMOUTH II (A)

JANUARY

6TH TORQUAY ATHLETIC (H)
13TH EXETER SARACENS (A)
27TH HONITON (H)

FEBRUARY

3RD IVYBRIDGE II (A)
17TH OLD PLYMOUTHIAN +
MANNAMEDIAN (A)

MARCH

2ND PLYMOUTH ARGAUM (H)
16TH BARNSTAPLE II (A)
23RD SOUTH MOLTON (H)

APRIL

6TH WITHYCOMBE (A)

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NIGHT
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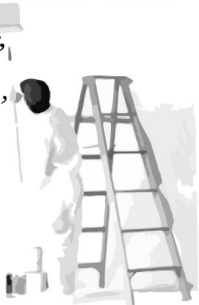
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READING GROUP

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for further information or to join
contact Ann Palmer
phone 01837 851659
on annpalmer@lineone.net

NORTH STREET CHAPEL

TEA AND PRAISE at 3 p.m.

February 18th

with
Colin and Marion Vanstone

NORTH STREET CHAPEL SEWING CLUB

6.30 p.m.

(also knitting, crochet, cross stitch etc.)

For further information contact
Charlotte Sampson 07706 942901 or
charlotte.sampson22@gmail.com

February 12th and 26th



Little Seedlings Playgroup

North Tawton Primary
School Hall

Every Tuesday during
term-time

9 - 11 a.m.

For babies & toddlers 0 - 4 yrs

Admission £2 per family
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Sampford Courtenay Flower Club

12th February

Susan Keyhoe—Demo

Power of Pink

For more information contact the Chairman,
Nancy Passmore on 01837 54849

Sampford Courtenay Parish Website:

<http://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/>

The website is managed by **Julie Carpenter** who can be
contacted on

juliec2911@hotmail.co.uk

or

admin@sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk

or by phone:

07866 605184

SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:-

PILATES Monday 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.

YOGA CLASSES Tuesday 6 to 7.30 p.m.

TAP DANCING Thursday 11 a.m. to 12 noon

CHEERFUL CHATTER GROUP

last Thursday of every month 2 – 3 p.m.
Tea/coffee, cake and an hour of friendly chatter

TABLE TENNIS Weekly—for details
ring 01837 851659

FLOWER CLUB 2nd Monday of every
month 2.30 p.m.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:-

Friday 16th February Film night
Doors open 7p.m. for 7.30p.m. start
The Great Escaper –
starring Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson

Saturday 2nd March 8.30 to 10.00 a.m.
Big Breakfast

Friday 15th March Film night
7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start
(film to be confirmed)

Tuesday 19th March 12.00 noon Community
Lunch

Please see separate adverts or visit the parish
website/facebook for more details on all of these
events . www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk



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Ladies who lunch



**Meet at the New Inn
Sampford Courtenay**
at 12.30 p.m. on the
fourth Wednesday of the month
(unless otherwise advised)

Pre-booking is essential - please ring:

Jackie Mardon 01837 748116
Debbie Manton, the New Inn 01837 82247

BONDLEIGH RAINFALL

As I look back over this year's rainfall figures, it looks more like a roller coaster than usual. Total rainfall for the year was 1190.4 mm, which is above our 10 year average of 1050mm. Despite what many thought, no records were broken in November and December. In fact the wettest month was March with 175.1mm and although May and June were dry, the driest month was February with only 17.5mm. November and December figures were 168.7mm and 156.5mm respectively. 2024 has started wet with over 50mm in the first 5 days of January.

I have been measuring rainfall in Bondleigh since 1996. The wettest year was 2012 with 1380mm and the driest was 2003 with 680.9mm.

Danny Semorad

Meetings for the Council have now been changed to occur bi-monthly and our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 19:30 in Sampford Courtenay Village Hall.

If you wish to contact the Council to raise any issues for the next meeting please use our Clerks email ClerkSCPC@gmail.com and even better, please come along to a meeting and take part and have your say.

The minutes of all meetings can be viewed on our website www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk where any useful links are live. We will republish details of the future meetings with our next minutes.

News from Sampford Courtenay Parish Council

As this edition goes to press in February, I, Malcolm Harris , the new Parish Clerk , will have been in post over 2 months and clerked two meetings . The administrative handover has been a positive experience and many thanks to the outgoing Clerk Marion Pratt and the Chair Cllr. Michele Wilson for their invaluable support and knowledge. I have worked as a Clerk in several Devon parishes and am always pleasantly surprised at the amount of voluntary hours and support that parish councillors give to their community.

Here in Sampford Courtenay , the councillors offer a generous amount of their time to supporting the community events and their parish council duties. Most of the councillors will have allocated areas of responsibility and their work can vary from representation on external groups such as OkeRail Forum and SCEnSus or an internal working group considering planning applications.

In future editorial pieces – it is hoped that their work will be highlighted and provide a back story to the services that the parish council provide. Our footpaths - the responsibility of the Deputy Chair Cllr. Mike Carpenter who walks all the parish footpaths and campaigns for funding.

Our representative on the OkeRail Forum – Cllr. James McIlwraith – is campaigning alongside other agencies to gain better rail services for the Parish.

Parish Councils are the closest sector of local government to the community . How you wish to see your community flourish and develop is how we see our role as Councillors . Help us to achieve the very best services that Sampford Courtenay residents deserve to enjoy. If you wish to contact the Council to raise any issues, please do contact any of the Councillors by email (their email contacts and areas of responsibility are on the web site and the notice boards) or the Clerk on

ClerkSPSC@gmail.com.

Malcolm Harris

Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe W.I.


The meeting on Tuesday December 12th was a celebration of Christmas. The president, Margaret Cleveland, welcomed everyone and Jerusalem was sung. There was a good selection of decorated Christmas hats to be seen. There was a short business meeting, in which it was stated that Sally Kenealy was retiring as treasurer after many years. Margaret thanked the committee and all who had helped in the running of the W.I. during the last year. There followed a splendid Bring and Share Buffet accompanied with mulled wine. The prize giving for competitions during the year followed. Flower of the Month winners were 1. Doris Piper 2. Ethel Nancekivell 3. Karen Hunter. Winners of the monthly competitions were 1. Sally Kenealy 2. Margaret Cleveland 3. Vera Collins. There was a Raffle and Secret Santa and the afternoon finished with Carol Singing accompanied by Margaret Weeks on the piano.

The next meeting will be in Exbourne village hall on Tuesday January 9th at 2.30 p.m. when the speaker will be Bill Murray who will speak about Growing up in the Shadow of Sir Winston, (son of Sir Winston's last body guard, Edmund Murray).

Margaret Weeks

(For the report on January's meeting see page 26)

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Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe WI

The latest meeting was held on Tuesday January 9th. Everyone was welcomed and Jerusalem was sung. The speaker was Bill Murray, son of Edmund Murray, Winston Churchill's last bodyguard. He was bodyguard from 1950 to Winston's death in 1965. Bill had photos of his father with Winston. He travelled wherever Winston went, which included Monaco and on the Onassis yacht. He looked after the painting materials for when Winston wanted to paint and his cigars. A lot of time was spent at Chartwell and Bill met Winston there. Bill was thanked by Cherry Chidwick.

After tea the business of the afternoon was dealt with. The Christmas party in December had been very enjoyable. There followed a discussion about the proposed resolutions to go to the Annual Meeting. A show of hands resulted in Dental Health Matters being put forward. The next Walk is on Friday January 26th and to be from Bridestowe Station to Lydford on the Granite Way and for those who would like to, lunch will be available at the Fox and Hounds. David Botting Page is to be invited to address members at the next meeting with details of the Sampford Courtenay Prayer Book Revolution this year.

The competition winner of a Churchill Memento was won by Gillian Townsend Green and the Flower of the Month by Margaret Cleveland.

The next meeting is on Tuesday February 13th at 2.30p.m. in Exbourne village hall when the speaker will be Stuart Luxton talking on the History of Farmer Luxton's.

Margaret Weeks

The extract below was received from Historic England.

Lych gate to the Church of St Peter, Market Street, North Tawton - Awarded Listed Building Status List Entry Number: 1488362. Following your application to add the above building to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, we have now considered all the representations made and completed our assessment of the building. I am delighted to inform you that having considered our recommendation, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add Lych gate to the Church of St. Peter to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The building is now listed at Grade II.



Cllr. Christian Martin said "The nearest listed Lych Gate to North Tawton can be found in Monkeokehampton - across Dartmoor and Devon there are only 58 that have been listed. The listing of North Tawton's Lych Gate brings the total to 59 which is a great feather in the town's cap. Now that the architectural merit has been recognised, I believe that the Lych Gate can forever now stand in the forefront of a bucolic scene set for romance, artistic creativity, inspiration, belief and spirituality behind which there lies the tree lined cobbled pathway completing the mis en scene. I couldn't be more delighted."

The Whiddon Mission Community
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Chagford, Gidleigh, Throwleigh, Drewsteignton, South Tawton, Spreyton and Hittisleigh,

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TEAM RECTOR: Chagford

Rev'd. Dr. David Spence (89243) revdspence@gmail.com
at present a Vacancy

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CURATE: Chagford
PARISH WORKER: North Tawton

Rev'd. Rita Bullworthy (89168) ritabullworthy@yahoo.co.uk
Rev'd. Dr. Harriet Every (01647 432402)
Mr. Wesley Cutler (07540 127827) wesleycutler@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Peter's North Tawton

Mr. Paul Andrews (82648)

Mrs. Rhona Bragg (82343)

St. James's Bondleigh

Mr. Danny Semorad (82319)

Mr. Graham Stokes (82240)

St. Andrew's Sampford Courtenay

Mr. Malcolm Craig (880118)

Mrs. Sarah Hanks (851287)

St. Mary's Honeychurch

Mr. Ray Squire (851627)

Mr. Richard Weeks (851269)

(All numbers are 01837 numbers unless otherwise stated)

Church web page address: <http://www.stpetersnorthtawton.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stpetersnorthtawton/>

FEBRUARY SERVICES at
St. Peter's Church
North Tawton

4th February	11 a.m.	Morning Worship
11th February	11 a.m.	Informal Communion
18th February	11 a.m.	Family Service
25th February	11 a.m.	Traditional Communion

FEBRUARY SERVICES at
St. Andrew's Church
Sampford Courtenay

4th February	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
11th February	9.30 a.m.	Communion
14th February	7.30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes & Communion
18th February	6.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong
25th February	9.30 a.m.	Communion

FEBRUARY SERVICES at
St. James's Church Bondleigh

4th February	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service
18th February	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service

QUAKERS

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EX20 1AR

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All visitors welcome

FEBRUARY SERVICES at
St. Mary's Church Honeychurch

4th February 3 p.m. Evensong / Communion

North Street Chapel

Contact: Mr. R. Sampson 07835 033062

	11 a.m.	Evening
1 st Sunday	Special service	No Service unless advertised otherwise
2 nd Sunday	Prayer & Communion	No Service unless advertised otherwise
3 rd Sunday	No service	3 p.m. Tea and Praise
4 th Sunday	11 a.m. Morning Service	No service
5 th Sunday	Prayer & Communion	No service unless advertised otherwise

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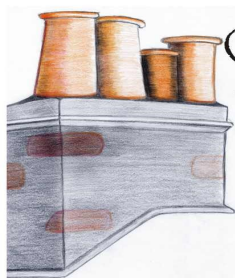
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Thursday 1st February 9am-12pm

then 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May (every 1st Thursday of the Month)

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Baptisms

Funerals

16 th November 2023	John Rothwell LOWE (79 years)	St. Andrew's, Sampford Courtenay
24 th November 2023	Richard RICE (95 years)	St. Peter's, North Tawton
13 th December 2023	Joan YOUNG (90 years)	St. Peter's, North Tawton
4 th January 2024	Thomas WILLISON (85 years)	St. James's, Bondleigh

Roger Cleverdon 01837 810320

For further information contact: Care Direct 0345 155 1007

The next date is Thursday February 22nd



Please continue to remember those who need help via the Food Bank box in St. Peter's Church outer porch. It is accessible there during the day and contents are regularly moved to the community kitchen in Merry-Go-Round. Thank you.



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Stay & Play – Mondays 10:00-11:00 (term-time only)
A fun, free play session for under 5s. Come to play and socialise.
Just drop in.

Read to a Dog – Tuesdays 15:45 -16:45
To help and encourage children and teenagers to read, book on to a 'Read to a Dog' session with 'Rafa' who has been assessed by and is registered with Pets as Therapy (PAT). All children can benefit from this activity and are welcome, however, it is particularly beneficial to those children who find reading challenging, are worried about reading aloud in front of others or lack self-confidence and self-esteem. Each reading session lasts up to 15 minutes. Booking is essential.

Bounce & Rhyme - Tuesdays 10:00-10:20 & 11:00-11:20
Suitable for under 5s. FREE, no booking necessary.

Baby Weigh – Tuesdays 09:30-11:30
FREE self-weigh facilities for parents to weigh their babies, are available in a screened area within the library. This is in partnership with Devon Public Health Nursing. No booking necessary. Parents and babies welcome to stay for Bounce & Rhyme!

Duplo Builders & Storytime - Wednesdays 09:30–10:15
Suitable for under 5s. FREE, no booking necessary.

Lego Builders - Saturdays 10:30–11:30
Suitable for ages 5+. FREE, just drop in.

The Secret Book Quest
A completely FREE year-round reading challenge for 5–12-year-olds across Devon. To take part, children sign up in the library, read 50 library books at their own pace, and collect stickers to solve the secret code. Finishers will receive a certificate and a small prize.

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Church Flowers & Brass

Sampford Courtenay

February	Lynn Robinson
March	Lent – No Flowers

Honeychurch

February	Vera Collins
March	Karen Squire

Bondleigh

Feb 4th / 11th	Caroline Stokes
Feb 18th	(Brass only)
Feb 25th / Mar 3rd	Nicola Raffin & Clarewen. (Brass only)
Mar 10th / 17th	Barbara Dennis
(Mar 17th, Mar 24th Brass only)	
Mar 24th / 31st	Hazel Towell

North Tawton

Flowers

Feb 4th / 11th	Kathy Drake
Feb 18th - Mar 24th	Lent - No Flowers
Mar 31st	Easter Flowers

Brass

February	Carol Whitely
March	Monica & Jane Simons

North Tawton Residents.

Would anyone be interested in joining the rota to do church flowers?

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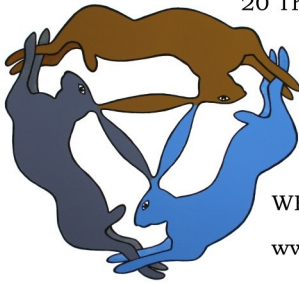
Pause for thought

Then why, O blesséd Jesu Christ,
Should I not love thee well?
Not for the sake of winning heaven,
Or of escaping hell;
Not with the hope of gaining aught,
Not seeking a reward;
But as thyself hast lovéd me,
O ever-loving Lord!

(Translated from Latin by Edward Caswell, 1814–78)

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